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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of)
Junichi Nio et al.)
on LENS APPARATUS)
Serial No.: National Stage Entry of)
Int'l Appln. No. : PCT/JP2003/009016)
International Filing Date: 16 July 2003)
Filed: Simultaneously herewith) (Docket No. 1007-0001WOUS)

Middletown, Connecticut, January 13, 2005

Mail Stop PCT Commissioner for Patents P.O. BOX 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

SIR:

Applicant(s) submits herewith Form PTO/SB/08A identifying patents, publications or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 CFR 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

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The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.

Under 37 CFR 1.97 (b) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application, or the date of entry into the national stage of an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever event occurs last.
Under 37 CFR 1.97 (c) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed <i>after</i> three months of the filing date of this national application, or the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application, or after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, whichever event occurred last, but <i>before</i> the mailing date of either a final action under §1.113 or a notice of allowance under §1.311, whichever occurs first.
 □ A certification as specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e) is set forth below. □ Fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (\$180.00).
Under 37 CFR 1.97(d) ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed <i>after</i> a final action under §1.113 or a notice of allowance under §1.311, whichever occurs first, but before, or simultaneously with, the payment of the issue fee. Applicant hereby petitions for the consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement, 37 CFR 1.97(d)(ii). A certification as specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e) is set forth below.
□ Fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(i) (\$180.00)
CERTIFICATION (37 CFR 1.97(e))
☐ Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement. A copy of the relevant search report is enclosed herewith.
□ No item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing this certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

Under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i)

© Copies of the U.S. patents identified on the attached PTO/SB/08A form are not being submitted at this time. Should the Examiner require said U.S. patent copies, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner contact Applicants' Representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Registration No. 40,088

Attorney for Applicants

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO		Complete if Known		
		Application Number		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)		Filing Date		
		First Named Inventor	Junichi Nio	
		Art Unit		
		Examiner Name		
Sheet	1 of 1	Attorney Docket Number	1007-0001WOUS	

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS Examiner Cite Document Number Publication Date Name of Patentee or Pages, Columns, Lines, Who					
Examiner Cite Initials* No.	No.1	MM-DD-Y	MM-DD-YYYY		Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ^{2 (f known)}			
		^{US-} 5,822,132	10-13-1998	Hirakawa	
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		FORE	IGN PATENT DOCU	IMENTS		
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		Country Code ³ "Number ⁴ "Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY		Or Relevant Figures Appear	
		JP 9179023	07-11-1997	Asahi Optical		
		JP 5210047	08-20-1993	Olympus Optical		\checkmark
		JP 11030745	02-02-1999	Asahi Optical		lacksquare
		JP 1183619	07-21-1989	Minolta Camera		V

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Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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